

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to change the multiple dependent claims to single dependent claims in order to reduce the government filing fee.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

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April 25, 2001

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Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX B

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(iii) AND (c)(ii)

CLAIMS:

4. The articulated yoke as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the recess (20), observed in the position of installation, is disposed in the surface regions (19) of the supporting surface (10) pointing in the circumferential direction.

5. The articulated yoke as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the recess (20) extends in the position of installation parallel to the journal axis (Z1) of the journal (6) mounted in the bore (9) toward to pivot axis (G) over the entire extent of the bore (9).

6. The articulated yoke as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the profile of the recess (20) in the supporting surface (10) undergoes a change over the direction of extension of the recess (20) in the direction parallel to the journal axis (Z1) of the journal (6), mounted in the articulated yoke (4) of a journal arrangement (5) toward the pivot axis (G).

8. The articulated yoke as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein the recesses (20) are arranged symmetrically relative to a plane (E) which is described by the journal axis of the journal (6), mounted in the articulated yoke, of a differential-pinion shaft (3) and the pivot axis(G).

9. The articulated yoke as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein the supporting surface (10) and/or the surface of the supporting surface (10) that can be described by the recess (20) are surface-treated.

12. The articulated yoke as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 11] claim 1, wherein the latter comprises at least two yoke halves (4.1), each yoke half (4.1) having a leg member and a bearing part.

13. The articulated yoke as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, wherein the bore (9) is designed as a blind hole.

14. A method for the production of a supporting surface (10) for the achievement of a uniform load distribution of rolling elements of a roller-bearing arrangement for the mounting of journals (6) of a differential-pinion shaft (3) in an articulated yoke (4) having a local recess (20), as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 13] claim 1, wherein, relative to the machining of the bore (9) in the articulated yoke (4), the tool spindle used is guided, with respect to its guide axis A, in an inclined manner relative to the theoretical median axis A_L of a cylindrical bore.

19. The bearing arrangement as claimed in [one of claims 16 to 18] claim 16, wherein the recess, observed in the position of installation, is disposed in the surface regions of the supporting surface pointing in the circumferential direction.

20. The bearing arrangement as claimed in [one of claims 16 to 19] claim 16, wherein the recess extends in the position of installation parallel to the journal axis of the journal mounted in the bore toward the pivot axis over the entire extent of the bore.

21. The bearing arrangement as claimed in [one of claims 16 to 20] claim 16, wherein the profile of the recess in the supporting surface undergoes a change over the direction of extension of the recess in the direction parallel to the journal axis of the journal, mounted in the articulated yoke of a journal arrangement toward the pivot axis.

23. The bearing arrangement as claimed in [one of claims 16 to 22] claim 16, wherein the recesses are arranged symmetrically relative to a plane (E) which is described by the journal axis of the journal, mounted in the articulated yoke, of a differential-pinion shaft and the pivot axis (G).

24. The bearing arrangement as claimed in [one of claims 16 to 24] claim 16, wherein the supporting surface (10), and/or the surface of the supporting surface (10) that can be described by the recess (20) are surface-treated.